

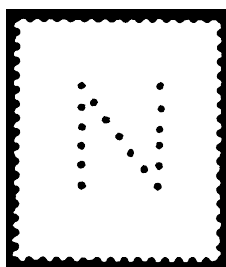
GUEST, KEEN & NETTLEFOLDS LIMITED

Roy Gault

At the London AGM in November 2007, **Derek Ransom** handed me a 1918 cover addressed to the Taff Vale Railway, embossed with '**Guest, Keen & Nettlefolds Ltd, Birmingham**'. The perfin was a large, somewhat worn, "N" with barely 10 pins showing. The best fit was the unidentified N0010.17, known used 1870-1915 with '75' Birmingham and '493' Maidstone postmarks. The Birmingham postmarks would be expected, but why Maidstone?

Closer inspection revealed that there are two dies represented in the Catalogue, published over 10 years ago now. *Could I ask you to inspect your holdings of these large N's and help me recompile accurate details for the two dies from scratch?*

1878-1920



N0010.17

Dates: 27 Sep 1899 - ... 1918.

Issues: QV 1d (SG43) - plate 204 (s/w)

B 1d (16 dots)

E 2½d

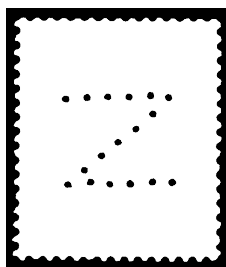
F 2d, 3d, 4d (gr/br), 6d

I(RC) ½d

Note: Narrow "N", 8.0mm wide. Usually upright.

Pmks: '75' Birmingham.

1870-1875



N0010.17a

Dates: 22 Aug 1874.

Issues: QV 1d (SG43) - plates 120, 138, 140, 150, 155, 157

Note: Wider "N", 8.5mm wide. Usually sideways.

Pmks: '493' Maidstone.

We can now assign "N" (N0010.17) as having been used by '**Nettlefold & Co**' (Ltd from 1880), who continued to use the die after they became part of '**Guest, Keen, & Nettlefolds Ltd**' in 1902 - see also "GK/N" (G2990.01M). But who was the Maidstone user?